

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
REQUEST FOR FILING NATIONAL PHASE OF
PCT APPLICATION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 AND 37 CFR 1.494 OR 1.495

10/088305

To: Hon. Commissioner of Patents
 Washington, D.C. 20231



00909

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
 DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

Atty Dkt: P 0290683 / 60383/UST
 M# / Client Ref.

From: Pillsbury Winthrop LLP, IP Group:

Date: March 18, 2002

This is a **REQUEST** for **FILING** a PCT/USA National Phase Application based on:

1. International Application	2. International Filing Date	3. Earliest Priority Date Claimed
PCT/GB00/03335 <small>↑ country code</small>	31 August 2000 <small>Day MONTH Year</small>	18 September 1999 <small>Day MONTH Year (use item 2 if no earlier priority)</small>

4. Measured from the earliest priority date in item 3, this PCT/USA National Phase Application Request is being filed within:

- (a) 20 months from above item 3 date (b) 30 months from above item 3 date,
 (c) Therefore, the due date (unextendable) is March 18, 2002

5. Title of Invention POLYESTER DISPERSANTS

6. Inventor(s) Dean Thetford; Ian Donald Maxwell; and Lindsay Anne Slater

Applicant herewith submits the following under 35 U.S.C. 371 to effect filing:

7. Please immediately start national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371 (f)).
8. A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) is transmitted herewith (file if in English but, if in foreign language, file only if not transmitted to PTO by the International Bureau) including:
- Request;
 - Abstract;
 - 21 pgs. Spec. and Claims;
 - sheet(s) Drawing which are informal formal of size A4 11"
9. A copy of the International Application has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
10. A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
- is transmitted herewith including: (1) Request; (2) Abstract;
 (3) _____ pgs. Spec. and Claims;
 (4) _____ sheet(s) Drawing which are:
 informal formal of size A4 11"
 - is not required, as the application was filed in English.
 - is not herewith, but will be filed when required by the forthcoming PTO Missing Requirements Notice per Rule 494(c) if box 4(a) is X'd or Rule 495(c) if box 4(b) is X'd.
 - Translation verification attached (not required now).

RE: USA National Phase Filing of PCT /GB00/03335

11. Please see the attached Preliminary Amendment
12. Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)), i.e., before 18th month from first priority date above in item 3, are transmitted herewith (file only if in English) including:
13. PCT Article 19 claim amendments (if any) have been transmitted by the International Bureau
14. Translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)), i.e., of claim amendments made before 18th month, is attached (required by 20th month from the date in item 3 if box 4(a) above is X'd, or 30th month if box 4(b) is X'd, or else amendments will be considered canceled).
15. A declaration of the inventor (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4))
 a. is submitted herewith Original Facsimile/Copy
 b. is not herewith, but will be filed when required by the forthcoming PTO Missing Requirements Notice per Rule 494(c) if box 4(a) is X'd or Rule 495(c) if box 4(b) is X'd.
16. An International Search Report (ISR):
 a. Was prepared by European Patent Office Japanese Patent Office Other
 b. has been transmitted by the international Bureau to PTO.
 c. copy herewith (2 pg(s).) plus Annex of family members (_ pg(s).).
17. International Preliminary Examination Report (IPER):
 a. has been transmitted (if this letter is filed after 28 months from date in item 3) in English by the International Bureau with Annexes (if any) in original language.
 b. copy herewith in English.
 c. 1 IPER Annex(es) in original language ("Annexes" are amendments made to claims/spec/drawings during Examination) including attached amended:
 c. 2 Specification/claim pages #__ claims #__ Dwg Sheets #
 d. Translation of Annex(es) to IPER (required by 30th month due date, or else annexed amendments will be considered canceled).
18. Information Disclosure Statement including:
 a. Attached Form PTO-1449 listing documents
 b. Attached copies of documents listed on Form PTO-1449
 c. A concise explanation of relevance of ISR references is given in the ISR.
19. Assignment document and Cover Sheet for recording are attached. Please mail the recorded assignment document back to the person whose signature, name and address appear at the end of this letter.
20. Copy of Power to IA agent.
21. Drawings (complete only if 8d or 10a(4) not completed): _ sheet(s) per set: 1 set informal; Formal of size A4 11"
22. Small Entity Status is Not claimed is claimed (pre-filing confirmation required)
 22(a) ___ (No.) Small Entity Statement(s) enclosed (since 9/8/00 Small Entity Statements(s) not essential)
23. Priority is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. 119/365 based on the priority claim and the certified copy, both filed in the International Application during the international stage based on the filing in (country) Great Britain of:
- | | <u>Application No.</u> | <u>Filing Date</u> | <u>Application No.</u> | <u>Filing Date</u> |
|-----|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| (1) | 9922039.4 | 18 Sept 1999 | (2) | |
| (3) | | | (4) | |
| (5) | | | (6) | |
- a. See Form PCT/IB/304 sent to US/DO with copy of priority documents. If copy has not been received, please proceed promptly to obtain same from the IB.
 b. Copy of Form PCT/IB/304 attached.

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RE: USA National Phase Filing of PCT/GB00/03335

Page 3 of 3

24. Attached: Preliminary Amendment

25. Per Item 17.c2, cancel original pages #___, claims #___, Drawing Sheets #___

26. Calculation of the U.S. National Fee (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(1)) and other fees is as follows:

Based on amended claim(s) per above item(s) 12, 14, 17, 25 (hilite)

Total Effective Claims	19	minus 20 =	0	x \$18/\$9 =	\$0	966/967
Independent Claims	1	minus 3 =	0	x \$84/\$42 =	\$0	964/965
If any proper (ignore improper) Multiple Dependent claim is present,				add\$280/\$140	+0	968/969

BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(4)): →→ BASIC FEE REQUIRED, NOW →→→→

A. If country code letters in item 1 are not "US", "BR", "BB", "TT", "MX", "IL", "NZ", "IN", "ZA", "LC" or "PH"

See item 16 re:

- | | | |
|--|------------------|---------|
| 1. Search Report was <u>not prepared by EPO or JPO</u> ----- | add\$1,040/\$520 | 960/961 |
| 2. Search Report was prepared by EPO or JPO ----- | add\$890/\$445 | +890 |

SKIP B, C, D AND E UNLESS country code letters in item 1 are "US", "BR", "BB", "TT", "MX", "IL", "NZ", "IN", "ZA", "LC" or "PH"

- | | | | |
|--|------------------|----|---------|
| → <input type="checkbox"/> B. If <u>USPTO did not issue both</u> International Search Report (ISR) <u>and</u> (if box 4(b) above is X'd) the International Examination Report (IPER), ----- | add\$1,040/\$520 | +0 | 960/961 |
| (only)
(one)
(of)

(these)
(4)
(boxes) → <input type="checkbox"/> C. If <u>USPTO issued ISR but not IPER</u> (or box 4(a) above is X'd), ----- | add\$740/\$370 | +0 | 958/959 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D. If <u>USPTO issued IPER but IPER Sec. V boxes not all 3 YES</u> , ----- | add\$710/\$355 | +0 | 956/957 |
| → <input type="checkbox"/> E. If international preliminary examination fee was paid to <u>USPTO and Rules 492(a)(4) and 496(b) satisfied</u> (i.e., in IPER Sec. V <u>all 3 boxes must be YES for all claims</u>), -- | add \$100/\$50 | +0 | 962/963 |

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-------|
| 27. | SUBTOTAL = | <u>\$890</u> | |
| 28. If Assignment box 19 above is X'd, add Assignment Recording fee of ----\$40 | | <u>+40</u> | (581) |
| 29. If box 15a is x'd, determine whether inventorship on Declaration is different than in international stage. If yes, add (per Rule 497(d) | ----\$130 | <u>+0</u> | (098) |
| 30. Attached is a check to cover the ----- | TOTAL FEES | <u>\$930</u> | |

Our Deposit Account No. 03-3975

Our Order No. 070662 | 0290683
C# M#



00909

CHARGE STATEMENT: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee specifically authorized hereafter, or any missing or insufficient fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith or concerning any paper filed hereafter, and which may be required under Rules 16-18 and 492 (missing or insufficient fee only) now or hereafter relative to this application and the resulting Official document under Rule 20, or credit any overpayment, to our Account/Order Nos. shown above for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

This CHARGE STATEMENT does not authorize charge of the issue fee until/unless an issue fee transmittal form is filed

**Pillsbury Winthrop LLP
Intellectual Property Group**

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Atty/Sec: RAS/kmh

10/088305

JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 18 MAR 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION OF

BOX PCT

Inventor: Dean Thetford et al.

Filed: March 18, 2002

Title: *POLYESTER DISPERSANTS*

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to prosecution on the merits, please amend this application as follows herein.

In the Specification

Please insert the following heading and paragraph after the title of the application on page 1 of the specification:

--Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is a national phase application based on PCT/GB00/03335, filed August 31, 2000, and which further claims priority from British Application No. 9922039.4 filed September 18, 1999. These applications in their entirety are incorporated herein by reference.--

In the Claims

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polyester chain containing C₁₋₆-alkylene groups is derivable from optionally alkyl substituted ε-caprolactone and δ-valerolactone.

4. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene chain is derivable from ricinoleic acid.

Preliminary Amendment

Attorney Reference: 070662/0290683

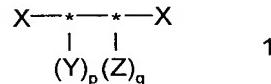
Page 2

5. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polyester chains are attached to the polyamine or polyimine backbone via amide and/or salt linkages.

6. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polyimine is poly (C₂₋₆-alkyleneimine).

8. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in claim 1 wherein the number average molecular weight of the polyamine or polyimine is from 500 to 600,000.

9. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in claim 2 which is represented by formula 1



wherein

X—*—*—X represents the polyamine or polyimine backbone polymer;

Y is the residue of a polyester chain which is derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids all of which contain a C₁₋₆-alkylene group or lactones thereof;

Z is the residue of a polyester chain which is derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids at least one of which contains a C₈₋₃₀-alkylene or C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene group or actones thereof;

p and q are integers; and

(p + q) is from 2 to 2000.

11. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in claim 9 wherein the molar ratio of p to q is from 1:1 to 5:1.

12. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in claim 9 wherein Y is the residue of a polyester chain derivable from lauric acid, ε-caprolactone and δ-valerolactone.

14. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in claim 9 wherein Z is the residue of poly(ricinoleic acid).

15. (Amended) A composition comprising a particulate solid and a dispersant as claimed in claim 1.

16. (Amended) A composition comprising an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in claim 1.

17. (Amended) A dispersion comprising a particulate solid, an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in claim 1.

18. (Amended) A millbase comprising a particulate solid, a film-forming resin, an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in claim 1.

19. (Amended) A paint or printing ink comprising a particulate solid, a film-forming resin, an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in claim 1.

Please refer to the attached Appendix for changes made to the above claims.

Preliminary Amendment
Attorney Reference: 070662/0290683
Page 4

REMARKS

The present amendment adds reference to the priority applications to the specification and further amends Claims 3-6, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 14-19 to remove multiple dependencies from the claims. No new matter has been added.

Favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

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Date: March 18, 2002
Attorney Reference: 070662/0290683

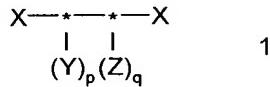
Attachment: Appendix

APPENDIX: VERSION TO SHOWS CHANGES MADE TO APPLICATION

In the Claims

The claims were amended as follows:

3. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in [either] claim 1 [or claim 2] wherein the polyester chain containing C₁₋₆-alkylene groups is derivable from optionally alkyl substituted ε-caprolactone and δ-valerolactone.
4. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 wherein the C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene chain is derivable from ricinoleic acid.
5. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 wherein the polyester chains are attached to the polyamine or polyimine backbone via amide and/or salt linkages.
6. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 5] claim 1 wherein the polyimine is poly (C₂₋₆-alkyleneimine).
8. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1 wherein the number average molecular weight of the polyamine or polyimine is from 500 to 600,000.
9. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in [any one of claims 2 to 8] claim 2 which is represented by formula 1



wherein

X—*—*—X represents the polyamine or polyimine backbone polymer;

Y is the residue of a polyester chain which is derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids all of which contain a C₁₋₆-alkylene group or lactones thereof;

Z is the residue of a polyester chain which is derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids at least one of which contains a C₈₋₃₀-alkylene or C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene group or actones thereof;

p and q are integers; and

(p + q) is from 2 to 2000.

Preliminary Amendment

Attorney Reference: 070662/0290683

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11. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in [either claim 9 or claim 10] claim 9 wherein the molar ratio of p to q is from 1:1 to 5:1.

12. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in [any one of claims 9 to 11] claim 9 wherein Y is the residue of a polyester chain derivable from lauric acid, ϵ -caprolactone and δ -valerolactone.

14. (Amended) A dispersant as claimed in [any one of claims 9 to 13] claim 9 wherein Z is the residue of poly(ricinoleic acid).

15. (Amended) A composition comprising a particulate solid and a dispersant as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 14] claim 1.

16. (Amended) A composition comprising an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 14] claim 1.

17. (Amended) A dispersion comprising a particulate solid, an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 14] claim 1.

18. (Amended) A millbase comprising a particulate solid, a film-forming resin, an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 14] claim 1.

19. (Amended) A paint or printing ink comprising a particulate solid, a film-forming resin, an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 14] claim 1.

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JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 18 MAR 2002

POLYESTER DISPERSANTS

The present invention relates to polyester dispersants comprising a polyamine or polyimine chain containing two or more different types of polyester chain attached to the polyamine or polyimine chains.

WO 94/21368 discloses a dispersant comprising a polyethyleneimine residue carrying a plurality of poly(carbonylalkyleneoxy) chains each chain containing a plurality of repeat units derivable from 6-hydroxyhexanoic acid and at least one other hydroxycarboxylic acid selected from ricinoleic acid, 12-hydroxystearic acid, 12-hydroxydodecanoic acid, 5-hydroxydodecanoic acid, 5-hydroxydecanoic acid and 4-hydroxydecanoic acid. These dispersants were shown to be particularly effective when dispersing pigments in non-polar solvents such as xylene.

WO 98/19784 discloses a dispersant which contains a polyester chain derived from optionally alkyl substituted ϵ -caprolactone and δ -valerolactone attached via amide or salt groups to a polyamine or polyimine backbone chain such as polyallylamine or polyalkyleneimine, for example polyethyleneimine. These dispersants are particularly effective for dispersing pigments in polar organic liquids such as butanol and methoxy propylacetate.

EP 713 894 discloses dispersants which contain a polyester chain which is attached to a polyamine or polyimine backbone chain via a Michaels addition reaction. The polyester chain contains oxy-C₃₋₁₀-alkylene carbonyl groups. These dispersants are effective for dispersing pigments in non-polar liquids such as xylenes and in polar organic liquids such as alcohols and ketones.

None of these prior art documents disclose or envisage dispersants wherein the polyamine or polyimine backbone chain contains different types of polyester side chains. It has now been found that such dispersants exhibit improved dispersion characteristics in both polar and non-polar organic liquids without significant deterioration of dispersion characteristics in the one type of organic liquid.

According to the invention there is provided a dispersant which comprises a polyamine or polyimine backbone chain containing side chains of two or more different types of polyesters chain wherein at least one type of polyester chain is derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids all of which contain a C₁₋₆-alkylene group or lactone thereof and at least one other type of polyester chain derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids wherein at least one of the hydroxy carboxylic acids contains a C₈₋₃₀-alkylene or C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene group or lactone thereof, including salts of such dispersants. This is referred to hereinafter as The Dispersant.

Preferably the total amount of polyester chains attached to the polyamine or polyimine backbone is from 3:1 to 20:1 more preferably from 5:1 to 20:1, even more

preferably from 10:1 to 15:1 and especially from 8:1 to 15:1 by weight of the polyamine or polyimine.

The polyester chain which is derivable from hydroxy carboxylic acids or lactones thereof all of which contain a C₁₋₆-alkylene group is a poly(oxy C₁₋₆-alkylene carbonyl) chain (hereinafter POAC 1). It may be linear or branched. The POAC 1 chain may be derivable from a single hydroxy carboxylic acid or lactone thereof or from different hydroxy carboxylic acids or lactones thereof.

Preferably, POAC 1 is derivable from hydroxy carboxylic acids or lactones thereof all of which contain a C₂₋₆-alkylene group.

Examples of hydroxy carboxylic acids from which POAC 1 may be derived are glycolic acid, 6-hydroxy hexanoic acid and 5-hydroxy pentanoic acid. Examples of suitable lactones are optionally alkyl substituted ϵ -caprolactone, optionally alkyl substituted δ -valerolactone and β -propiolactone.

When the polyester chain of POAC 1 is branched it may be conveniently derived from alkyl substituted ϵ -caprolactones. These may be made by oxidation of alkyl substituted cyclohexanone as described in WO 98/19784. Many of these alkyl substituted ϵ -caprolactones are available as mixtures. The alkyl substituent is preferably C₁₋₆-alkyl and especially C₁₋₄-alkyl which may be linear or branched. Examples of alkyl substituted ϵ -caprolactone are 7-methyl, 3-methyl, 5-methyl, 6-methyl, 4-methyl, 5-tert butyl, 4,6,6-trimethyl and 4,4,6-trimethyl substituted ϵ -caprolactone. An example of an alkyl substituted δ -valerolactone is β -methyl- δ -valerolactone.

When POAC 1 is derivable from a single hydroxy carboxylic acid or lactone thereof it is preferably an alkyl substituted ϵ -caprolactone and especially ϵ -caprolactone itself.

However, it is preferred that POAC 1 is derivable from 2 or more different hydroxy carboxylic acids or lactones thereof and especially from two different hydroxy carboxylic acids or lactones thereof. When PAOC 1 is derivable from two different lactones, the lactones are preferably optionally alkyl substituted ϵ -caprolactone and δ -valerolactone and especially ϵ -caprolactone and δ -valerolactone. When POAC 1 is derivable from glycolic acid and one or more lactones, the lactone is preferably ϵ -caprolactone.

The polyester chain which is derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids at least one of which contains a C₈₋₃₀-alkylene or C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene group, or lactone thereof, is hereinafter referred to as POAC 2. It may be linear or branched and preferably the alkylene or alkenylene group contains not greater than 24 and especially not greater than 20 carbon atoms. It is also preferred that the alkylene or alkenylene group contains not less than 10, more preferably not less than 12 and especially not less than 16 carbon atoms. Examples of suitable hydroxy carboxylic acids from which POAC 2 is derivable are ricinoleic acid, 12-hydroxy stearic acid, 12-hydroxy dodecanoic acid, 5-hydroxy dodecanoic acid, 5-hydroxy decanoic acid and 4-hydroxy decanoic acid.

In one preferred aspect of the invention, POAC 2 is derivable from a single hydroxy carboxylic acid which contains a C₈₋₃₀-alkylene or C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene group such as 12-hydroxy stearic acid or ricinoleic acid.

In another preferred aspect of the invention, POAC 2 is derivable from two or more hydroxy carboxylic acids one of which contains a C₈₋₃₀-alkylene or C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene group and at least one hydroxy carboxylic acid which contains a C₁₋₆-alkylene group, preferably a C₂₋₆-alkylene group, or lactone thereof. Examples of POAC 2 derivable from two different kinds of hydroxy carboxylic acids or lactones thereof are those derivable from ricinoleic acid and optionally alkyl substituted ϵ -caprolactone and those derivable from ricinoleic acid, optionally alkyl substituted ϵ -caprolactone and δ -valerolactone. When POAC 2 is derivable from optionally alkyl substituted ϵ -caprolactone, the lactone is preferably unsubstituted.

In a particularly preferred class of dispersant, the dispersant contains only two different types of polyester chain, i.e. POAC 1 and POAC 2.

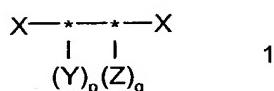
The polyester chains POAC 1 and POAC 2 may be attached to the polyamine or polyimine backbone chains via amide and/or salt linkages or they may be attached via a linkage which contains an ethylenically unsaturated group. In all these methods of attachment, the polyamine is preferably polyallylamine or polyvinylamine and the polyimine is preferably poly (C₂₋₆-alkyleneimine) and especially polyethyleneimine. The polyimines may be linear but are preferably branched. Linear polyethyleneimines can be prepared by hydrolysis of poly (N-acyl) alkyleneimines as described, for example, by Takeo Saegusa et al in Macromolecules, 1972, Vol. 5, page 4470. The branched polyethyleneimines of differing molecular weights are commercially available from BASF and Nihon Shokubai. Polyallylamine and poly (N-alkyl) allylamines of differing molecular weights are commercially available from Nitto Boseki. Polyvinylamine of differing molecular weights are available from Mitsubishi Kasei. Poly (propyleneimine) dendrimers are commercially available from DSM Fine Chemicals and poly (amidoamine) dendrimers are available as "Starburst" dendrimers from Aldrich Chemical Co.

In the case where the polyester chains are attached via a linkage containing an ethylenically unsaturated group, the polyamine may also be a diamine which may be aliphatic or aromatic. Examples of suitable diamines are ethylenediamine, N,N'-dimethyl ethylenediamine, piperazine, 2-methyl piperazine, 2,5-dimethyl piperazine, 2,3-dimethyl piperazine, 1,4-bis(3-aminopropyl)piperazine, N-(2-aminoethyl)piperazine, isophoronediamine, polyoxy propylenediamine, polyoxy ethylenediamine, bis(4-amino-3-methyl dicyclohexyl)methane, diamino dicyclohexyl methane, bis(aminomethyl)cyclohexane, m-xylylenediamine, α -(m-aminomethyl)ethylamine, α -(p-aminophenyl)ethylamine, m-phenylenediamine, diaminodiphenyl methane, diaminodiphenyl sulphone and norbornanediamine.

When the polyester chains are attached via a linkage which contains an ethylenically unsaturated group the polyamine or polyimine is preferably polyallylamine, polyvinylamine or poly(C₂₋₆-alkyleneimine) and especially polyethyleneimine.

The number average molecular weight of the polyamine or polyimine is preferably from 500 to 600,000, more preferably from 1,000 to 200,000, even more preferably from 1,000 to 100,000 and especially from 5,000 to 100,000.

When the dispersant contains only two different types of polyester chain it may be conveniently represented by general formula 1



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wherein

X—*—*—X represents the polyamine or polyimine backbone polymer;

Y represents a polyester chain residue POAC 1;

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Z represents a polyester chain residue POAC 2;

p and q are integers; and

(p + q) is from 2 to 2000.

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Preferably, (p + q) is not less than 4 and especially not less than 10. It is also preferred that (p + q) is not greater than 1000 and especially not greater than 500. The ratio of p:q may vary from 10:1 to 1:10 and preferably from 5:1 to 1:5 by molar ratio. It is, however, preferred that the molar ratio of p:q is from 1:1 to 5:1, i.e. the dispersant contains a greater molar amount of the polyester chain derivable from hydroxycarboxylic acids wherein all the hydroxycarboxylic acids contain an optionally alkyl substituted C₂₋₆-alkylene group, or lactones thereof. Particularly useful dispersants have been obtained when the molar ratio of p:q is 4:1.

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When the POAC 1 and POAC 2 residues are linked to the polyamine or polyimine backbone via amide and/or salt linkages, the dispersant may be made by either reacting the polyamine or polyimine with the appropriate hydroxycarboxylic acids or lactones thereof in a stepwise manner or preferably by reacting the polyamine or polyimine with preformed polyesters containing the polyester chain.

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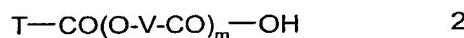
When the former, less preferred, method is used the polyamine or polyimine acts as a polymerisation terminating group and the different polyester chains are built sequentially. When the first polyester chain has been built on the polyamine or polyimine backbone the resultant terminal hydroxy group need not be reacted with a polymerisation terminating group in order to prevent the hydroxycarboxylic acids or lactones required for building the second polyester chain from adding to the first polyester chain. However, it is preferred to prepare the precursors containing POAC 1 and POAC 2 chains separately

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and to subsequently react these precursors with the polyamine or polyimine. The preformed polyester chains, POAC 1 and POAC 2 may be reacted with the polyimine or polyamine either sequentially or, preferably, simultaneously.

It is, of course, possible to use a combination of such methods of preparation wherein one of the polyester chains is built on to the polyamine or polyimine backbone polymer by reacting with the appropriate hydroxycarboxylic acids or lactones thereof and optionally after reacting the terminal hydroxy group of this first polyester chain with a polymerisation terminating compound the polyamine or polyimine containing the first polyester chain is reacted with the second preformed polyester.

As noted hereinbefore, it is preferred to prepare the dispersant by preforming the polyester chains. The preparation of the polyester precursors is most conveniently achieved by reacting the appropriate hydroxycarboxylic acids with a polymerisation terminating compound to give a poly(oxyalkylene carbonyl) chain containing a polymerisation terminating group and/or poly(oxyalkenylene carbonyl) chain containing the polymerisation terminating group. The polymerisation terminating compound is preferably a carboxylic acid T-COOH which may be aromatic, alicyclic, heterocyclic or preferably aliphatic. The polyester precursor thereby carries a terminal carboxylic acid and may be represented by formula 2



wherein

T is an aromatic, alicyclic, heterocyclic or aliphatic residue all of which may be substituted;

V is the alkylene or alkenylene group of the appropriate polyester chain; and

m is from 2 to 100.

The polyester acid of formula 2 is hereinafter referred to as a TPOAC acid.

Preferably m is not greater than 70, more preferably not greater than 50 and especially not greater than 20.

When $(O-V-CO)_m$ represents POAC 1 obtainable from two different hydroxycarboxylic acids or lactones thereof, the residue of POAC 1 chain may be conveniently represented by formula 3 in a preferred embodiment of POAC 1



wherein

A represents an oxyalkylene carbonyl chain derivable from optionally alkyl substituted ϵ -caprolactone;

B represents an oxyalkylene carbonyl chain derivable from δ -valerolactone;

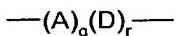
n and p are integers; and

n + p is from 2 to 100.

Preferably (n + p) is not greater than 70, more preferably not greater than 50 and especially not greater than 20.

The ratio of n:p is preferably between 12:1 and 1:6, more preferably between 8:1 and 1:2 and especially between 6:1 and 1:2.

5 When (O-V-CO)_m represents POAC 2 which is derivable from two different types of hydroxycarboxylic acids or lactones thereof, the residue of POAC2 chain may be conveniently represented by formula 4 in a preferred embodiment of POAC 2



4

10 wherein

A represents an oxyalkylene carbonyl chain derivable from optionally alkyl substituted 6-hydroxyhexanoic acid or ε-caprolactone;

D represents an oxy (C₈₋₃₀)-alkylene carbonyl chain and/or an oxy (C₈₋₃₀)-alkenylene carbonyl chain;

15 q and r are integers; and

q + r is from 2 to 100.

Preferably (q + r) is not greater than 70, more preferably not greater than 50 and especially not greater than 20.

The ratio of q:r is preferably between 4:1 and 1:4 and especially between 2:1 and

20 1:2.

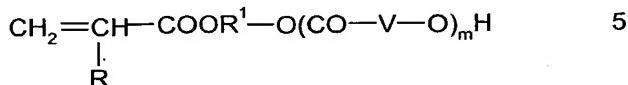
The polymerisation terminating acid T-COOH is preferably free from amino groups and is preferably a C₁₋₂₅-aliphatic carboxylic acid which may be linear or branched and is optionally substituted by hydroxy, C₁₋₄-alkoxy or halogen. The residue T may be saturated or unsaturated and preferably contains not greater than 18 carbon atoms. Examples of 25 suitable carboxylic acids T-COOH are glycolic, lactic, caproic, lauric, oleic, linoleic, stearic, methoxy acetic, ricinoleic, 12-hydroxy stearic, 12-hydroxy dodecanoic, 5-hydroxy dodecanoic, 5-hydroxy decanoic, 4-hydroxy decanoic, isobutyric, 2-ethylbutyric, isovaleric, 2,2-dimethylbutyric, 2-methylvaleric, 2-propylpentanoic, 2-ethylhexanoic acids and C₁₂₋₂₄-branched chain aliphatic acids available as Isocarbs from Condea.

30 Many of the hydroxycarboxylic acids which are used to prepare the polyester chains are available commercially as mixtures which contain a carboxylic acid which is free from hydroxy groups. The carboxylic acid which is free from hydroxy groups can, thereby, act as the polymerisation terminating group, e.g. commercially available 12-hydroxy stearic acid often contains some stearic acid.

35 As noted hereinbefore the polyester chains may also be attached to the polyamine or polyimine backbone chain via an ethylenically unsaturated group, for example, using a Michaels addition reaction. In this instance the polyester chain may carry a polymerisation terminating group which is attached to either the terminal hydroxy group of the polyester chain or to the carboxylic acid group of the polyester chain. The polymerisation

terminating group can contain the ethylenically unsaturated group or the ethylenically unsaturated group may be attached to the polyester chain via either the free hydroxyl or free carboxylic acid group when the polymerisation terminating group does not contain the ethylenically unsaturated group.

5 In one preferred aspect of the invention, the polyester containing an ethylenically unsaturated group is of formula 5



wherein

10 R is hydrogen or C₁₋₄-alkyl;

R¹ is an aliphatic or aromatic residue containing up to 10 carbon atoms which optionally contains a polyether group derivable from propylene oxide and/or ethylene oxide; and

V and m are as defined hereinbefore.

15 The compounds of formula 5 may be conveniently prepared by reacting an (alk) acrylic acid carrying a terminal hydroxy group with the appropriate hydroxy carboxylic acid or lactone thereof to build the chain residue represented by (CO-V-O)_m. In this instance the (alk) acrylic acid acts as the polymerisation terminating group.

Preferably, R is either hydrogen or methyl.

20 Examples of suitable (alk) acrylic acids containing a terminal hydroxy group are hydroxy ethyl (meth) acrylic acid, hydroxy propyl (meth) acrylic acid, hydroxy butyl (meth) acrylic acid, polyethyleneglycol mono (meth) acrylate, poly propyleneglycol mono (meth) acrylate, polyethyleneglycol - polypropyleneglycol mono (meth) acrylate, polyethyleneglycol - polytetramethylene glycol mono (meth) acrylate and poly 25 propyleneglycol - polytetramethyleneglycol mono (meth) acrylate (e.g. Blemmer PE, Blemmer PP ex Nihon Yushi Co. Ltd.).

The dispersants according to the present invention may be prepared by any means known to the art. Thus, where the polyesters are attached to the polyamine or polyimine backbone chain via amide and/or salt linkages the polyesters are preferably reacted with the polyamine or polyimine by heating at temperatures between 50°C and 30 250°C, preferably in an inert atmosphere. Preferably the temperature is not less than 80°C and especially not less than 100°C. In order to minimise charring of the dispersant, the temperature is preferably not greater than 150°C.

35 The inert atmosphere may be provided by any gas which does not react with the dispersant or the starting materials and includes the inert gases of the Periodic Table and especially nitrogen.

When the dispersant containing amide and/or salt linkages is prepared in a single stage by reacting the polyamine or polyimine with the appropriate polymerisation terminating compound, hydroxycarboxylic acids or lactones thereof it is preferred to include an esterification catalyst such as tetra-alkyl titanate, for example tetra butyl titanate, zinc salt of an organic acid, for example zinc acetate, zirconium salt of an aliphatic alcohol, for example zirconium isopropoxide, aryl sulphonic acid, for example toluene sulphonic acid, or a strong organic acid such as halo acetic acid, for example trifluoroacetic acid. Zirconium isopropoxide is preferred. When the dispersant is prepared by a single stage process, higher temperatures may be required and these are typically from 150°C to 180°C.

As noted hereinbefore it is preferred to prepare the polyester chains or TPOAC acids separately, prior to reacting them with the polyamine or polyimine. In this case, the hydroxycarboxylic acids or lactones thereof and polymerisation terminating compound are reacted together in an inert atmosphere at 150-180°C and preferably in the presence of an esterification catalyst. The subsequent reaction with the polyamine or polyimine may then be carried out at 100-150°C.

Typical conditions for preparing the dispersants containing amide and/or salt linkages are as described in WO 94/21368 and WO 98/19784.

The compounds of formula 5 may be conveniently prepared by reacting the (alk) acyclic acid containing a terminal hydroxy group with the relevant hydroxycarboxylic acids or lactones thereof at from 50°C to 150°C, preferably from 80°C to 120°C in the presence of air and oxygen. Preferably the reaction is carried out in the presence of an esterification catalyst such as tetra alkyl titanate, for example tetra butyl titanate, a metal alkoxide such as tetra isopropyl titanate, a tin catalyst such as stannous chloride, stannous octylate or mono butyl tin oxide or an acid catalyst such as p-toluene sulphonic acid or trifluoro acetic acid. The reaction is also preferably carried out in the presence of a polymerisation inhibitor to prevent the self-polymerisation of the (alk) acrylic acid containing the terminal hydroxy group. Examples of suitable inhibitors are (methyl) hydroquinone, phenothiazine and air (oxygen).

The reaction between the polyamine or polyimine and the compound of formula 5 is preferably carried out between 10°C and 130°C, especially between 20°C and 100°C and preferably in an inert solvent. Examples of suitable inert solvents are aromatic and aliphatic solvents such as xylene, toluene and Solvesso, ketones such as acetone, methylethylketone and methylisobutylketone, alkanols such as n-butanol and isopropanol and esters such as dimethyladipate, dimethylsuccinate and dimethylglutarate.

The dispersants according to the invention may also contain polyoxyalkylene carbonyl chains or polyoxyalkenylene carbonyl chains which are attached to the polyamine or polyimine by different linking mechanisms, for example, polyoxyalkylene carbonyl or polyoxyalkenylene carbonyl chains linked to the polyamine or polyimine via

amide and/or salt linkages and polyoxyalkylene carbonyl chains or polyoxyalkenylene carbonyl chains linked to the polyamine or polyimine via an ethylenically unsaturated group.

When The Dispersant contains free amino or imino groups these may be converted into substituted ammonium groups by reaction with an acid or quaternising agent so that The Dispersant is in the form of a substituted ammonium salt. Suitable reagents for this purpose are mineral and strong organic acids or acidic alts such as acetic acid, sulphuric acid, alkyl sulphonic acids, alkyl hydrogen sulphates and aryl sulphonic acids including acid forms of dyestuffs and pigments (i.e. coloured acids) and quaternising agents such as dialkyl sulphates, for example, dimethyl sulphate and alkyl halides, such as methyl and ethyl chloride.

The term 'coloured acid' means an organic pigment or dyestuff containing at least one, preferably from 1 to 6 acid groups, especially sulphonic, phosphoric or carboxylic acid groups. A preferred coloured acid is copper phthalocyanine or other deeply coloured pigment and especially sulphonated copper phthalocyanine containing, on average, from 0.5 to 3 sulphonic acid groups per molecule.

Where the polyester chains are attached to the polyimine or polyamine via amide or salt linkages, useful dispersants have been obtained where POAC 2 is obtainable from poly(12-hydroxy stearic acid) optionally end-capped by stearic acid or poly (ricinoleic acid) optionally end capped by oleic and/or linoleic acid, especially where the number average molecular weight is between 1000 and 2400, for example between 1200 and 2000. Useful dispersants have also been obtained where POAC 2 is obtainable from ricinoleic acid and ϵ -caprolactone in the molar ratio of from 4:1 to 1:4, especially from 2:1 to 1:2 and especially where the number average molecular weight is from 1000 to 2400, for example between 1200 and 2000. These dispersants which have been found particularly useful also contain the residue of a POAC 1 polyester which is either ϵ -caprolactone optionally end-capped with lauric acid or a polyester obtainable from lauric acid, ϵ -caprolactone and δ -valerolactone and which preferably have a number average molecular weight between 1000 and 2400, for example between 1200 and 2000. Dispersants wherein the molar ratio of lauric acid to other lactone(s) is from 1:10 to 1:20 have been found especially useful. Where POAC 1 is derivable from ϵ -caprolactone and δ -valerolactone, dispersants have been found particularly useful which contain a molar ratio of ϵ -caprolactone to δ -valerolactone of from 1:1 to 6:1. In these particularly useful dispersants the molar ratio of POAC 1 to POAC 2 is from 2:1 to 4:1 and the amount of amine/imine groups reacted with POAC 1 and POAC 2 is, together, from 40 to 60%, by weight of the primary and secondary amine groups which are available for reaction with the polyester chains.

As noted hereinbefore, The Dispersant is particularly useful for dispersing a particulate solid in an organic medium which may be either polar or non-polar.

According to a further aspect of the invention there is provided a composition comprising a particulate solid and The Dispersant.

According to a still further aspect of the invention there is provided a dispersion comprising The Dispersant, a particulate solid and an organic medium.

5 The solid present in the dispersion may be any inorganic or organic solid material which is substantially insoluble in the organic medium at the temperature concerned and which it is desired to stabilise in a finely divided form therein.

10 Examples of suitable solids are pigments for solvent inks; pigments, extenders and fillers for paints and plastics materials; dyes, especially disperse dyes; optical brightening agents and textile auxiliaries for solvent dyebaths, inks and other solvent application systems; solids for oil-based and invert-emulsion drilling muds; dirt and solid particles in dry cleaning fluids; particulate ceramic materials; magnetic materials and magnetic recording media, and biocides, agrochemicals and pharmaceuticals which are applied as dispersions in organic media.

15 A preferred solid is a pigment from any of the recognised classes of pigments described, for example, in the Third Edition of the Colour Index (1971) and subsequent revisions of, and supplements thereto, under the chapter headed "Pigments". Examples of inorganic pigments are titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, Prussian blue, cadmium sulphide, iron oxides, vermillion, ultramarine and the chrome pigments, including chromates, molybdates and mixed chromates and sulphates of lead, zinc, barium, calcium and mixtures and modifications thereof which are commercially available as greenish-yellow to red pigments under the names primrose, lemon, middle, orange, scarlet and red chromes. Examples of organic pigments are those from the azo, disazo, condensed azo, thioindigo, 20 indanthrone, isoindanthrone, anthanthrone, anthraquinone, isodibenzanthrone, triphendioxazine, quinacridone and phthalocyanine series, especially copper phthalocyanine and its nuclear halogenated derivatives, and also lakes of acid, basic and mordant dyes. Carbon black, although strictly inorganic, behaves more like an organic pigment in its dispersing properties. Preferred organic pigments are phthalocyanines, especially copper phthalocyanines, monoazos, disazos, indanthrones, anthranthrones, 25 quinacridones and carbon blacks.

30 Other preferred solids are: extenders and fillers such as talc, kaolin, silica, barytes and chalk; particulate ceramic materials such as alumina, silica, zirconia, titania, silicon nitride, boron nitride, silicon carbide, boron carbide, mixed silicon-aluminium nitrides and metal titanates; particulate magnetic materials such as the magnetic oxides of transition metals, especially iron and chromium, e.g. gamma- Fe_2O_3 , Fe_3O_4 , and cobalt-doped iron oxides, calcium oxide, ferrites, especially barium ferrites; and metal particles, especially metallic iron, nickel, cobalt and alloys thereof; and agrochemicals such as the fungicides flutriafen, carbendazim, chlorothalonil and mancozeb.

The organic medium present in the dispersions of the invention is preferably a polar organic medium or a substantially non-polar aliphatic or aromatic hydrocarbon or halogenated hydrocarbon. By the term "polar" in relation to the organic medium is meant an organic liquid or resin capable of forming moderate to strong bonds as described in the article entitled "A Three Dimensional Approach to Solubility" by Crowley et al in Journal of Paint Technology, Vol. 38, 1966, at page 269. Such organic media generally have a hydrogen bonding number of 5 or more as defined in the abovementioned article.

Examples of suitable polar organic liquids are amines, ethers, especially lower alkyl ethers, organic acids, esters, ketones, glycols, alcohols and amides. Numerous specific examples of such moderately strongly hydrogen bonding liquids are given in the book entitled "Compatibility and Solubility" by Ibert Mellan (published in 1968 by Noyes Development Corporation) in Table 2.14 on pages 39-40 and these liquids all fall within the scope of the term polar organic liquid as used herein.

Preferred polar organic liquids are dialkyl ketones, alkyl esters of alkane carboxylic acids and alkanols, especially such liquids containing up to, and including, a total of 6 carbon atoms. As examples of the preferred and especially preferred liquids there may be mentioned dialkyl and cycloalkyl ketones, such as acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, diethyl ketone, di-isopropyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, di-isobutyl ketone, methyl isoamyl ketone, methyl n-amyl ketone and cyclohexanone; alkyl esters such as methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, isopropyl acetate, butyl acetate, ethyl formate, methyl propionate, methoxy propylacetate and ethyl butyrate; glycols and glycol esters and ethers, such as ethylene glycol, 2-ethoxyethanol, 3-methoxypropylpropanol, 3-ethoxypropylpropanol, 2-butoxyethyl acetate, 3-methoxypropyl acetate, 3-ethoxypropyl acetate and 2-ethoxyethyl acetate; alkanols such as methanol, ethanol, *n*-propanol, isopropanol, *n*-butanol and isobutanol and dialkyl and cyclic ethers such as diethyl ether and tetrahydrofuran.

The substantially non-polar, organic liquids which may be used, either alone or in admixture with the aforementioned polar solvents, are aromatic hydrocarbons, such as toluene and xylene, aliphatic hydrocarbons such as heptane, octane and decane, petroleum distillates such as white spirits and halogenated aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, such as trichloro-ethylene, perchloroethylene, chlorobenzene and dichlorobenzene.

Examples of suitable polar resins, as the medium for the dispersion form of the present invention, are film-forming resins such as are suitable for the preparation of inks, paints and chips for use in various applications such as paints and inks. Examples of such resins include polyamides, such as Versamid™ and Wolfamid™, and cellulose ethers, such as ethyl cellulose and ethyl hydroxyethyl cellulose. Examples of paint resins are short, medium and long oil length alkyd resins, alkyd/melamine formaldehyde, alkyd/urea-formaldehyde, alkyd/urea-formaldehyde acid cured, base coat acrylic/cellulose acetate butyrate/melamine-formaldehyde, polyester/melamine-formaldehyde, base coat

polyester/cellulose acetate butyrate/melamine-formaldehyde, base coat nitrocellulose, epoxy, epoxy/amine cured, hydroxy acrylic/isocyanate cured, nitrocellulose and wood stains, polyesters, polyurethane 2-pack, silicone modified polyesters, thermoplastic acrylics, thermo setting acrylics, thermo setting acrylic/melamine-formaldehyde, urethane, vinyl acetate/PVC copolymers and multi media resins such as acrylic and urea aldehyde.

If desired, the dispersions may contain other ingredients, for example resins (where these do not already constitute the organic medium) binders, fluidising agents (such as those described in GB-A-1508576 and GB-A-2108143), anti-sedimentation agents, plasticisers, levelling agents and preservatives.

The dispersions typically contain from 5 to 95% by weight of the solid, the precise quantity depending on the nature of the solid and the quantity depending on the nature of the solid and the relative densities of the solid and the organic medium. For example, a dispersion in which the solid is an organic material, such as an organic pigment, preferably contains from 15 to 60% by weight of the solid whereas a dispersion in which the solid is an inorganic material, such as an inorganic pigment, filler or extender, preferably contains from 40 to 90% by weight of the solid based on the total weight of dispersion.

The dispersion may be obtained by any of the conventional methods known for preparing dispersions. Thus, the solid, the organic medium and The Dispersant may be mixed in any order, the mixture then being subjected to a mechanical treatment to reduce the particles of the solid to an appropriate size, for example by ball milling, bead milling, gravel milling or plastic milling until the dispersion is formed. Alternatively, the solid may be treated to reduce its particle size independently or in admixture with either the organic medium or The Dispersant, the other ingredient or ingredients then being added and the mixture being agitated to provide the dispersion.

If the composition is required in dry form, the liquid medium is preferably volatile so that it may be readily removed from the particulate solid by a simple separation means such as evaporation. It is preferred, however, that the dispersion comprises the liquid medium.

If the dry composition consists essentially of The Dispersant and the particulate solid, it preferably contains at least 0.2%, more preferably at least 0.5% and especially at least 1.0% of The Dispersant based on weight of the particulate solid. Preferably the dry composition contains not greater than 100%, preferably not greater than 50%, more preferably not greater than 20% and especially not greater than 10% by weight based on the weight of the particulate solid.

As described hereinbefore, The Dispersant is particularly suitable for preparing mill-bases where the particulate solid is milled in a liquid medium in the presence of both a particulate solid and a film-forming resin binder.

Thus, according to a still further aspect of the invention there is provided a mill-base comprising a particulate solid, The Dispersant and a film-forming resin.

Typically, the mill-base contains from 20 to 70% by weight particulate solid based on the total weight of the mill-base. Preferably, the particulate solid is not less than 30 and especially not less than 50% by weight of the mill-base.

The amount of resin in the mill-base can vary over wide limits but is preferably not less than 10%, and especially not less than 20% by weight of the continuous/liquid phase of the mill-base. Preferably, the amount of resin is not greater than 50% and especially not greater than 40% by weight of the continuous/liquid phase of the mill-base.

The amount of The Dispersant in the mill-base is dependent on the amount of particulate solid but is preferably from 0.5 to 5% by weight of the mill-base.

Dispersions and mill bases containing The Dispersant are particularly suitable for use in paints, especially high solids paints, inks, especially flexographic, gravure and screen inks, and non-aqueous ceramic processes, especially tape-coating, doctor-blade, extrusion and injection moulding type processes.

The dispersants of the present invention exhibit advantage over similar known dispersants which contain only the one type of polyester chain. In particular, they exhibit superior solubility in organic media such as solvents and do not separate or crystallise when stored at 4°C for lengthy periods. When stored at low temperatures, separation can occur at -24°C but the dispersants readily re-dissolve on warming to 4-10°C. When incorporated into paints and painting inks, The Dispersant gives rise to higher gloss readings and lower haze values in the resultant paints and inks. The Dispersants also exhibit reduced flocculation in multi media tinter paints and inks.

The invention is further illustrated by the following examples wherein all references to amounts are in parts by weight unless indicated to the contrary.

Example 1

a) Preparation of Polyester 1

Ricinoleic acid (500 parts, 1.68 M ex Fisher) and zirconium-n-butoxide (2.5 parts) were stirred at 170°C under nitrogen until the number average molecular weight was between 1500 and 1800 and the acid value of the polyester was about 35 mg KOH/gm. The water produced in the reaction was removed by means of a Dean-Stark equipment. This is Polyester 1.

b) Preparation of Polyester 2 (LA 1, ε-cap 12, δ-val 3)

Lauric acid (45 parts, 0.225 M ex Aldrich), ε-caprolactone (307.6 parts, 2.7 M ex Aldrich), δ-valerolactone (67.5 parts, 0.675 M ex Aldrich) and zirconium-n-butoxide (10.5 parts) were stirred under nitrogen at 170°C until the number average molecular weight was between 1500 and 1800 and the acid value of the polyester was about 30 mgs KOH/gm. This is Polyester 2.

c) Preparation of Dispersant

Polyester 1 (80 parts) and Polyester 2 (350.2 parts) were stirred under nitrogen at 60°C. Polyethyleneimine (29.59 parts SP200 ex Nippon Shokubai) was added and the reactants stirred at 120°C under nitrogen for 18 hours until the acid value of the dispersant was 20 mg KOH/gm with a base equivalent of 1550. On cooling, the product was obtained as a yellow semi-solid. This is Dispersant 1. The molar ratio of Polyester 1 to Polyester 2 is 1:4 and the polyethyleneimine backbone chain contains polyester chains attached by 35.5% salt linkages and 38.3% amide linkages.

10 Example 2

A millbase was prepared by milling together transparent red iron oxide pigment (49.13 parts, Bayferrox Red 130M ex Bayer), dispersant (1.22 parts), aldehyde/urea film-forming resin (14.87 parts, Laropal A-81 as 60% (w/w) solution in methoxy propyl acetate) and methoxy propyl acetate (4.97 parts). The milling was carried out on a Skandex bead mill for 30 minutes using 3 mm diameter glass beads (125 parts). After removing the glass beads, the above millbase (1 part) was stirred into a white base paint containing titanium dioxide pigment (10 parts).

The white base paint containing the red tinter was coated onto a card using a K-proofer and number 6 K-bar to give a paint film thickness of 60 μ . A drop of the paint formulation was then applied to the paint film and rubbed into the surface using finger pressure until the paint film became tacky. It was then dried at 25°C for 4 hours.

The L, a, b colour co-ordinates were then measured for the rubbed area and also the area of paint film to which no additional paint had been applied. The difference between these two sets of measurements (ΔE) gives a measure of acceptance of the universal tinter (red oxide pigment) by the white base paint.

$$\Delta E = \sqrt{(\Delta L)^2 + (\Delta a)^2 + (\Delta b)^2}$$

30 ΔL is $L_1 - L_2$, Δa is $a_1 - a_2$ and Δb is $b_1 - b_2$ where subscript 1 relates to the paint film to which no additional paint was applied and subscript 2 refers to the paint film to which additional paint was applied followed by finger rubbing.

A comparison of the dispersion characteristics for Dispersant 1 and a 50/50 (w/w) mixture of Dispersant A (1:1 molar ratio of ricinoleic acid and ϵ -caprolactone reacted with polyethyleneimine (MW 10,000) in 13:1 (w/w) ratio) and Dispersant B (polyester from lauric acid, ϵ -caprolactone and δ -valerolactone (1:12:3 molar ratio) reacted with polyethyleneimine (MW 10,000) in 13:1 (w/w) ratio) for different white base paints is given in Table 1 below.

These results indicate the universal nature of Dispersant 1.

Table 1

	White-base paint							
	Epoxy		Air-dried alkyd		Acrylic		Polyurethane	
	Strength	ΔE	Strength	ΔE	Strength	ΔE	Strength	ΔE
Dispersant 1	99.31	0.37	97.08	2.74	120.2	0.57	102.3	1.09
Control	100	1.49	100	2.89	100	3.71	100	1.92

Footnote to Table 1

5 Epoxy base paint is Epilife White ex Marcel Guest.

Air-dried alkyd is ex CIN, Portugal.

Acrylic is Acrythane White ex Marcel Guest.

Polyurethane is Standathane White ex Marcel Guest.

10 Preparation of Polyesters Intermediates (POAC.1)

Example 1(b) was repeated to give the polyester listed in Table 2 below wherein the numerical values indicate the molar ratios of the components.

Table 2

15

Polyester	Structure of POAC 1
3	lauric:cap (1:12)
4	lauric:cap:val (1:9:4)
5	lauric:cap;glycolic (1:10:3)
6	methoxyacetic:cap:5-Mecap (1:11:2)
7	methoxyacetic:cap:4-Mecap (1:12:2)

Footnote to Table 2.

Lauric is lauric acid

cap is ϵ -caprolactoneval is δ -valerolactone

20 glycolic is glycolic acid

methoxy acetic is methoxyacetic acid

5-Mecap is 5-methyl- ϵ -caprolactone4-Mecap is 4-methyl- ϵ -caprolactone

The preparation of 4-Mecap and 5-Mecap is describe in WO 98/19784.

25

Preparation of Acrylate (POAC 1) HEA (1), cap (10), val (3)

2-Hydroxyethyl acrylate (33.58 parts, 0.29M ex Aldrich), ϵ -caprolactone (329.9 parts, 2.89M ex Solvay Interox) and δ -valerolactone (86.6 parts, 0.86M ex BASF) were stirred together at 65°C for 72 hours in the presence of methylhydroquinone (0.06 parts ex Aldrich) and tin (II) 2-ethylhexanoate (0.6 parts ex Aldrich) whilst passing air through the reactants. After cooling, the product was obtained as a pale yellow oil. This is Polyester 8.

Preparation of Polyester Intermediates (POAC 2)Preparation of PHS (MW 1600) (POAC 2)

Xylene (348 parts) and 12-hydroxystearic acid (3350 parts having acid and hydroxy values of 182 mg KOH/gm and 160 mg KOH/gm, respectively) were stirred together for 22 hours at 190-200°C in a reactor equipped with a Dean and Stark collector. After 152 parts water had been removed the xylene was removed at 200°C under nitrogen. On cooling, the intermediate was obtained as a pale amber liquid having an acid value of 35 mg KOH/gm. This is Polyester 9.

Preparation of SA end-capped PHS (POAC 2)

Polyester 9 (353 parts) and stearic acid (33.62 parts ex Aldrich) were stirred together at 190°C for 18 hours under nitrogen in the presence of zirconium n-butoxide (0.23% w/w ex Aldrich). After cooling, the fully end-capped polyester was obtained as a pale yellow oil having an acid value of 27mg KOH/g. This is Polyester 10.

Preparation of cap:ric (5:1) (POAC 2)

Ricinoleic acid (150 parts ex Akzo) and ϵ -caprolactone (286.2 parts ex Solway Interox) were stirred under nitrogen for 5 hours at 170°C in the presence of zirconium n-butoxide (0.5% by weight). After cooling, the product was obtained as a yellow oil having an acid value of 37 mg KOH/g. This is Polyester 11.

Examples 3 to 16 Preparation of Dispersants

Example 1 (c) was repeated to give the dispersants listed in Table 3 below by using the polyesters and polyethyleneimines indicated in the table.

Table 3

Example	Dispersant	POAC 1		POAC 2		Molar ratio of POAC1:POAC2	PEI (Mn)	Amount of PEI	Ratio of Polyester:PEI (%/ _w)
		Polyester	Amount	Polyester	Amount				
3	2	2	350.2	1	80	4:1	10,000	29.59	14.5:1
4	3	2	324	1	100	3:1	10,000	30.4	13.9:1
5	4	2	258.6	1	130	2:1	10,000	109.7	3.5:1
6	5	2	344.4	1	80	4:1	1,200	29.3	14.5:1
7	6	2	346.5	1	80	4:1	5,000	28.8	14.8:1
8	7	2	343.8	1	80	4:1	25,000	28.3	14.9:1
9	8	2	264.7	1	132.4	2:1	10,000	30	13:1
10	*9	3	248.3	1	119.8	2:1	10,000	30.1	12.3:1
11	10	3	248.3	1	119.8	2:1	10,000	30.1	12.3:1
12	11	4	338	9	55	6:1	10,000	23.4	17:1
13	12	5	317.7	9	46.3	9:1	5,000	36.8	10:1
14	13	4	300.9	10	53.2	6:1	5,000	35.3	10:1
15	14	6	135.1	11	39.4	3:1	1,200	30	6:1
16	15	8	54.3	11	212.8	4:1	1,200	-	17:1

Footnote to Table 3

* The preparation of Dispersant 9 was terminated after 3 hours

Example 17 Preparation of Polyester 7/Polyester 11/PAA

Polyester 7 (248 parts) and Polyester 11 (53.4 parts) were stirred under nitrogen at 130°C. Polyallylamine (177.6 parts as a 10% w/w solution in water, Mn 20,000 ex Nitto Boseki) was added dropwise over 4 hours at 130°C and the water removed from the reactants by stirring under a nitrogen stream at 130°C for 16 hours. The product was obtained as a yellow oil wherein the molar ratio of Polyester 7 to Polyester 11 is 4:1 and the weight ratio of Polyester 7 and Polyester 11 to polyallylamine is 17:1. This is Dispersant 16.

10 Examples 18 to 32

Dispersants 3 to 16 were evaluated in acrylic and polyurethane paints as described in Example 2. The results are given in Table 4 below which clearly show that the dispersants according to the invention exhibit much superior acceptance levels of the universal tinter (ΔE values) compared with dispersants prepared from a single polyester chain or a mixture of such dispersants.

Table 4

Example	Dispersant	White Base Paint			
		Acrylic	ΔE	Polyurethane	ΔE
18	2	165	1.03	116	1.03
19	3	103	2.71	104	0.63
20	4	158	0.84	87	2.88
21	5	172	1.24	118	1.29
22	6	157	0.83	123	0.78
23	7	147	1.56	121	1.23
24	8	94	1.93	98	2.5
25	9	100	0.72	94	2.36
26	10	90	0.76	91	2.59
27	11	100	0.45	109	1.4
28	12	103	0.65	93	2.54
29	13	105	0.59	96	1.87
30	14	115	0.5	108	0.83
31	15	105	0.9	109	0.82
32	16	108	0.48	104	0.85
Control	A	100	8.35	100	6.23
Control	A/B	138	4.14	108	2.87

Footnote to Table 3

Dispersant A is as described in Example 2. Dispersant A/B is a 50/50 %_w mixture of Dispersant A and Dispersant 3 as described in Example 2.

CLAIMS

1. A dispersant which comprises a polyamine or polyimine backbone chain containing side chains of two or more different types of polyester chain wherein at least one type of polyester chain is derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids all of which contain a C₁₋₆-alkylene group or lactone thereof and at least one other type of polyester chain derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids wherein at least one of the hydroxy carboxylic acids contains a C₈₋₃₀-alkylene or C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene chain or lactone thereof, including salts of such dispersants.

10

2. A dispersant as claimed in claim 1 which contains side chains from two different types of polyester chain.

15

3. A dispersant as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the polyester chain containing C₁₋₆-alkylene groups is derivable from optionally alkyl substituted ϵ -caprolactone and δ -valerolactone.

20

4. A dispersant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene chain is derivable from ricinoleic acid.

25

5. A dispersant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein the polyester chains are attached to the polyamine or polyimine backbone via amide and/or salt linkages.

30

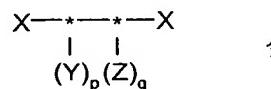
6. A dispersant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the polyimine is poly(C₂₋₆-alkyleneimine).

7. A dispersant as claimed in claim 6 wherein the polyimine is polyethyleneimine.

35

8. A dispersant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7 wherein the number average molecular weight of the polyamine or polyimine is from 500 to 600,000.

9. A dispersant as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 8 which is represented by formula 1



35

wherein

X—*—*—X represents the polyamine or polyimine backbone polymer;

Y is the residue of a polyester chain which is derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids all of which contain a C₁₋₆-alkylene group or lactones thereof;

Z is the residue of a polyester chain which is derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids at least one of which contains a C₈₋₃₀-alkylene or C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene group or actones thereof;

5 p and q are integers; and

(p + q) is from 2 to 2000.

10. A dispersant as claimed in claim 9 wherein the molar ratio of p to q is from 1:10 to
10 10:1.

11. A dispersant as claimed in either claim 9 or claim 10 wherein the molar ratio of p to q is from 1:1 to 5:1.

15 12. A dispersant as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11 wherein Y is the residue of a polyester chain derivable from lauric acid, ε-caprolactone and δ-valerolactone.

13. A dispersant as claimed in claim 12 wherein the molar ratio of ε-caprolactone to δ-valerolactone is from 2:1 to 6:1.

20 14. A dispersant as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 13 wherein Z is the residue of poly(ricinoleic acid).

25 15. A composition comprising a particulate solid and a dispersant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14.

16. A composition comprising an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14.

30 17. A dispersion comprising a particulate solid, an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14.

18. A millbase comprising a particulate solid, a film-forming resin, an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14.

35 19. A paint or printing ink comprising a particulate solid, a film-forming resin, an organic medium and a dispersant as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14.

ABSTRACT

A dispersant which comprises a polyamine (eg polyallylamine) or polyimine (eg polyethyleneimine) backbone chain containing side chains of two or more different types of polyester chain wherein at least one type of polyester chain is derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids all of which contain a C₁₋₆-alkylene group or lactone thereof such as ε-caprolactone and/or δ-valerolactone and at least one other type of polyester chain derivable from one or more hydroxy carboxylic acids wherein at least one of the hydroxy carboxylic acids contains a C₈₋₃₀-alkylene chain (e.g 12-hydroxystearic acid) or a C₈₋₃₀-alkenylene chain (eg ricinoleic acid) or lactone thereof.

RULE 63 (37 C.F.R. 1.63)
DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name and I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the INVENTION ENTITLED:

Polyester Dispersants

the specification of which

- is attached hereto
 was filed on as U.S. application serial No.
 X was filed as PCT international application No. PCT/GB00/03335 on 31/08/2000
 and (if applicable) was amended on

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information which is known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119/365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate filed by me or my assignee disclosing the subject matter claimed in this application and having a filing date (1) before that of the application on which priority is claimed, or (2) if no priority is claimed, before the filing date of this application:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

<u>Number</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Day/MONTH/Year Filed</u>	<u>Date First Laid Open or published</u>	<u>Date Patented or Granted</u>	<u>Priority claimed</u>
					<u>Yes</u> <u>No</u>
9922039.4	United Kingdom	18/09/1999			X

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120/365 of all United States applications listed below and PCT international applications listed above or below and, if this is a continuation-

in-part (CIP) application insofar as the subject matter disclosed and claimed in this application is in addition to that disclosed such in the prior applications. I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56 which became available between the filing date of each such prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>PRIOR U.S. OR PCT APPLICATION(S)</u>	Status
<u>Application No. (Serial Code/Serial No.) Day/Month/Year Filed</u>	<u>(patented, pending abandoned)</u>

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

And I hereby appoint Pillsbury Winthrop LLP, 1600 Tysons Boulevard, McLean, Virginia 22102 USA, telephone number 861-3000 (to whom all communications should be directed), and the below named persons (of the same address) individually and collectively my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and with the resulting patent and I hereby authorise them to act and reply on instructions from and communicate directly with the person/assignee/attorney/firm/organisation who/which first sends/sent this case to them and by who/which I hereby declare that I have consented after full disclosure to be represented unless/until I instruct Pillsbury Winthrop in writing to the contrary.

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- is attached hereto
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9922039.4	United Kingdom	18/09/1999			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

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